

## Claims

### WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. - 26. (canceled)
27. (new) A sausage product comprising:  
a sausage casing closed at opposed ends;  
sausage contents contained in the sausage casing;  
the sausage casing having an opening element that, when actuated, opens the sausage casing in the area of the opening element.
28. (new) The sausage product according to claim 27, wherein the sausage casing is comprised of a material adapted to be torn in all directions.
29. (new) The sausage product according to claim 27, wherein the opening element is arranged such on the sausage casing that the sausage casing is opened by the opening element in a direction substantially transverse to a longitudinal sausage axis of the sausage product.
30. (new) The sausage product according to claim 27, wherein the opening element is arranged near one of the opposed ends.
31. (new) The sausage product according to claim 27, wherein the opening element is fixedly connected to the sausage casing by gluing or welding.
32. (new) The sausage product according to claim 27, wherein the sausage casing has a pre-damage in the area of the opening element.
33. (new) The sausage product according to claim 32, wherein the pre-damage is a perforation that is substantially arrowhead-shaped.
34. (new) The sausage product according to claim 32, wherein the pre-damage is closed by the opening element.
35. (new) The sausage product according to claim 27, wherein the opening element comprises a free grip area and a tearing area, wherein the tearing area is fixedly connected by a connecting means to the sausage casing.
36. (new) The sausage product according to claim 35, wherein the connecting means is an adhesive that is coated on a side of the tearing area facing the sausage casing.

37. (new) The sausage product according to claim 35, wherein the connecting means has a shape that assists in a targeted damaging and opening of the sausage casing.

38. (new) The sausage product according to claim 35, wherein the connecting means is shaped to taper pointedly toward the grip area.

39. (new) The sausage product according to claim 35, wherein the connecting means is designed to be stronger than an initial tearing resistance of the sausage casing.

40. (new) The sausage product according to claim 35, wherein the grip area is rigidly connected to the tearing area.

41. (new) The sausage product according to claim 27, wherein the opening element comprises a damaging tool.

42. (new) The sausage product according to claim 41, wherein the opening element has a bottom side that is facing the sausage casing and wherein the damaging tool is arranged on the bottom side.

43. (new) The sausage product according to claim 41, wherein the damaging tool is at least partially sharp-edged; pointed; or at least partially sharp-edged and pointed.

44. (new) The sausage product according to claim 41, wherein the damaging tool is comprised of a plastic part or a sheet metal part, wherein the plastic part or the sheet metal part has at least one edge that is angled in a direction toward the sausage casing.

45. (new) The sausage product according to claim 41, wherein the opening element has a first portion fixedly connected to the sausage casing and a second portion comprising the damaging tool, wherein the second portion is movably connected to the first portion for actuating the damaging tool.

46. (new) The sausage product according to claim 45, wherein the second portion is secured against accidental actuation.

47. (new) The sausage product according to claim 45, wherein the first portion is a unitary part of the second portion.

48. (new) The sausage product according to claim 27, wherein the opening element is a monolithic part and is substantially bending-resistant.

49. (new) The sausage product according to claim 27, wherein the opening

element has a curvature that follows substantially a contour of the sausage product and is substantially matched to the shape of the sausage product.

50. (new) The sausage product according to claim 27, wherein the opening element has a blunt edge or is rounded in areas that contact the sausage casing during actuation of the opening element.

51. (new) The sausage product according to claim 27, wherein the opening element is substantially rectangular with rounded corners.

52 (new) A sausage casing for a sausage product according to claim 27.